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The Result in Doubt.

It is impossible at this writing to give the result of the Presidential election. Both parties claim the victory. It will take the official count in Illinois and New York to decide it. Indiana, New Jersey, Connecticut, California, Wisconsin and Nevada have almost certainly gone Democratic.

The Supreme Court of the United States has agreed with itself that again in the drummer tax question, deciding for the second time that all State laws imposing a license tax upon commercial travelers from outside of the State are unconstitutional. The decision handed down yesterday was upon a case carried up from the State Court of Texas. The Court held that the Texas case was in no respect different from a former case carried up from the Tennessee Courts, in which a similar decision was rendered. This second affirmation of the principle that commercial legislation which discriminates against the residents of other States is in conflict with the clause of the Constitution that gives Congress sole power to regulate inter-State commerce will probably bring to an end all attempts on the part of the individual States to make flesh of their own drummers and fish of those of other States.

The Fever Death Rate in Florida.

An old subscriber and friend of the Times, and a physician, writes to inquire what has been the average mortality this year among the yellow fever patients in Florida, and how the outbreak there compares with the outbreak of the same disease in other places.

It is quite difficult to give accurate information on these two points, because connected with all epidemics of any kind there is more or less exaggeration. Then some other fever, not yellow fever, and which would be looked upon as easily manageable at other times when the public mind is tranquil and capable of seeing and understanding clearly—are put down to the credit side of yellow fever. Then again, in the hurry and excitement of a medical treatment which, in the very nature of the situation, must be swift and prompt, for an hour sometimes is worth days, an accurate record is not always kept. Strangers die about whom very little if anything is known. Some die before it is even ascertained that they are sick. While others, the fever already at work upon them, flee north to escape, but die in the end. They went, however, to make a part of the aggregate population of any given place where the scourge was raging, and should so be taken account of if the intention be to give a correct table of the average mortality for the benefit of science. But perhaps it will be safe to say that the death rate in Jacksonville, Fla., where the fever was at its worst, was about 12 per cent. The most favorable death rates from this disease have been put as low as 7 per cent., which would make the type of the disease in Florida a virulent one. At periods in other places the mortality has been much greater. In Louisiana, in 1878, the hospital death rate in one instance was as high as 50 per cent., and the hospital service is always the best and the most satisfactory as to results.

During the epidemic of 1879 in Memphis there were 1,532 cases of yellow fever and 485 deaths—a mortality of nearly 32 per cent. One epidemic on record where the average death rate in Vera Cruz and Acapulco, Mexico, was 81 per cent., one in South America 80, and one in Havana of 76. If this proportion be true, then was it almost decimation or annihilation. A comparison of these data, therefore, apparently shows that the health authorities—national, state and local—who dealt with the Florida scourge did well, especially in a place like Jacksonville, where there was such a large negro population, and where so many tropical features impressed themselves upon the situation in a medical point of view.

The Arabs have a tradition that a poor camel driver, once going from Alexandria to Cairo, met cholera on the road. Believing that his time had come, and feeling to stir within him, perhaps, a great deal of the fatalism of his race, he began to reproach this pestilence in a most voluble manner. It was a butcher, an assassin, a coward and a thief. It had killed such and such a number at this place, and such and such a number at some other place. None was safe. The baby in the cradle, the bride at the altar, the grandmother by the fireside—youth, manhood, old age, helplessness, weakness—all, all were subject alike to the blows of the fell destroyer. Stopping then to get breath, the cholera broke in on the camel-driver: "Be just, my friend. I only killed one in Cairo and fright killed all the balance."

To a certain extent yellow fever might say the same thing, but not nearly to an extent as great as some people suppose. What demoralizes the men in the presence of yellow fever is the knowledge that their loved and helpless ones are in imminent peril. Alone and unhampered by domestic ties, and the average American will stay by his town and fight the pestilence to a finish. Face to face with death, and there are no people in the

world who accept the inevitable with a more perfect good humor and equanimity than the American people. In the name of duty, self-sacrifice and unselfish devotion are made manifest as a mere matter of course. No special commendation is asked because of their exercise, and no favor of any sort solicited. The war showed this to a degree hitherto unparalleled in our history, and the story of a dozen virulent epidemics since the war has done the same thing. —Kansas City Times.

ABOUT HALLOWEEN.

THE FATEFUL EVENING THAT PRECEDES ALL SOULS DAY.

Some of the Charms and Spells Which Belong to It—Old Superstition and Modern Mischief—Maidens Who Try to Read Their Future.



HE festival of All Saints comes on the 1st of November. Sometimes it is called All Hallow's, or All Holy, for "hallow" comes from "holy," and has the same signification. The evening preceding this, which is the last evening in October, is called Hallow even, or Hallowe'en.

About it originally clung many poetical superstitions, which have mostly degenerated into burlesque. These had their origin in Scotland, land of the weird and uncanny. At midnight certain incantations and charms would disclose to her who performed them her future matrimonial partner. And it was also believed by the rustics that any one who would watch in a church porch on All Souls night, the night following Hallowe'en, would see the ghosts of those who were doomed to die in that parish within a year. One by one the ghoulish procession would troop by towards the graves, foreshadowing their last trip to the churchyard. Many an over-curious maiden tried this dismal means of learning something about the future, only to be rewarded by the cruel pranks of the youths who masqueraded as ghosts in order to bring their sweethearts to terms.

Hallowe'en has long taken on a merry coloring. In England arose the fashion of ducking for apples in a tub of water. Nuts were named for the ladies and ladies named for the nuts in the front of the fire to see whom each should marry.

Cabbages have always figured effectively in Hallowe'en practices. Why, it would be difficult to tell, just what occult power a cabbage possesses has never been defined; but certain it is that these innocuous plants usually have a rough time of it on Hallowe'en. In Scotland the girls went forth at midnight and each pulled a cabbage from the earth. If it came up without breaking and brought with it a goodly portion of earth she would be married within the year to a husband of enviable wealth.

Superstitions change with the years. They either grow in intensity or lapse into burlesque. The one pertaining to cabbage was finally translated to mean that no thrifty persons permitted their cabbages to stand in the ground as late as the last day of October. When any were found ungathered on this particular night it was considered quite proper to rebuke the carelessness and shiftlessness of their owners by pulling them up.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON, and throwing them at the doors of said owners.

This practice still obtains in villages and towns which are blessed with lads who class cabbage pulling and throwing as humor. Certain other attempts at being funny are indulged in by cabbage throwing brigades. They think it enough to set the whole town roaring when they transfer the undertaker's sign board to the doctor's office. Hiding gates and painting dragons on the minister's house is also a high order of mirth to them.

To put a stuffy clonkey at a professor's desk or in the most iron clad preacher's pulpit is a feat for which they will labor heroically and consider themselves rewarded by the anger and scandal it arouses.

Indeed, instead of being a hallowe'en or holy e'en the last evening of October has been almost universally given over to pranks quite the reverse of holy. Formerly, when a belief in elves and witches existed, this was the night on which they chose to go abroad on baneful midnight errands. It was supposed that the fairies then held a grand anniversary, and fairies were always supposed to be in sympathy with the young, particularly with those who were in love.

Since witches and fairies have vanished their Hallowe'en tricks have been kept up by able bodied fairies of full growth in strong sympathy with the spirit of mischief supposed to belong to the little brown people.

Hallowe'en has been the source of much exciting fiction, which proves highly fascinating to people who like tales with spells,



ROASTING CHESTNUTS. charms, prophecies and their fulfillment in them. Stories of maidens who recklessly peered into the future on that fateful night and saw what they wished not to see come forth every year and make the rounds. They are read, of course, or they would not be written. It is hinted that they are even read by those who pretend to be greatly superior to the superstitions these tales promulgate.

On Hallowe'en girls like to gather about a fire and tell the queer tales they have heard

about the prophecies which came true. Their elders smile pityingly. They remember when they, too, tried spells and charms, with a certain foolish faith in them. And sometimes they sigh as they look back over their own lives.

October is a grave, almost mournful month, full of an unspoken sadness and the melancholy brightness of dying leaves. It is fitting that its last hours should be dedicated to weird and strange fancies. It has in it some of the warm splendors of the summer and the dumb despair of the winter.

Dickens thus describes a late October evening: "A moment, and its glory was no more. The sun went down beneath the long dark lines of hills and clouds, which piled up in the west an airy city, wall heaped on wall, and battlement on battlement; the light was all withdrawn; the shining church turned cold and dark; the stream forgot to smile; the birds were silent, and the gloom of winter dwelt on everything."

Everybody knows Burns' poem, "Hallowe'en," which pictures the eve as it was and probably still is on Scotch soil. There are books devoted to old customs and superstitions which set forth the proper thing to do on Hallowe'en. The old fashioned almanac paid some attention to this day and helped out the young people by giving various methods of their reading the future. The modern almanac is too frequently a stunted thing, shorn of all information that would be pleasing to romantic young souls.

Yet tradition will continue to dispense the lore of Hallowe'en, the young will crack nuts, pull up cabbages and try spells until the unromantic realities come so thick and fast upon them that they have no more hours for happy foolishness.

LA CROSSE'S PUBLIC BUILDING.

Uncle Sam Pays \$150,000 for His Office in That City.

Among the numerous public building appropriations passed by the Forty-ninth congress, was one of \$150,000 for La Crosse, Wis., and the building is now well along toward completion. When it is finished it will compare favorably with the public buildings in many larger cities. It will be a decidedly handsome structure, and is being



GOVERNMENT BUILDING, LA CROSSE.

very substantially and thoroughly built from the concrete foundation to the top of the handsome tower which adorns one corner, looming 120 feet in the air.

According to the architect's plans, the building will consist of three stories, a basement, and the tower, from which will be visible a magnificent view of La Crosse and the surrounding country. The walls of the first two stories are of massive granite set off by polished columns at the entrances and windows. The upper stories are of pressed brick, relieved by freestone trimmings. The interior is quite as attractive as the exterior, being finished in hard wood and tile. The building is absolutely fireproof, and conveniently located near the center of the city.

The structure will be occupied, when completed, by the postoffice, the internal revenue and land departments, United States courts, and the offices of the surveyor of customs. Exclusive of the heating apparatus the building contracts amount to \$60,000.

La Crosse is a city of 28,000 inhabitants, has eight railroads and two lines of steamers to St. Paul and St. Louis while navigation is open.

The Late Britton A. Hill. In the death of Judge Britton A. Hill, of St. Louis, which recently occurred in that city, the legal profession and literature loses a shining light. Judge Hill was born in 1816 at Milford, Hunterdon county, N. J.; was educated at Oxford, N. Y., where he was admitted to the bar at Albany in 1839. After practicing at Albany two years he removed to St. Louis.

Ten years later came the epidemic of cholera, and Judge Hill, who had some knowledge of the science of medicine, devoted himself with noble self sacrifice and fearlessness to those suffering from the disease, and fortunately escaped without taking it himself. In the meanwhile he built up a large law practice. He was an intimate friend of President Lincoln, and during the days of 1861 when new plans for the management of the national finances were put in operation Judge Hill proposed the scheme based on national legal tender notes. He was afterward engaged with Oliver H. Browning and Thomas Ewing, of Ohio, in prosecuting cases before the United States supreme court.

Judge Hill wrote largely on politics, economic and financial questions. His chief work is "Liberty and Law Under Federal Government." In 1875 appeared "Absolute Money," and in 1879, during a season of business depression, he wrote a reply to Professor Newcomb's "A B C of Finance" and a pamphlet called "Specie Resumption and National Bankruptcy Identical and Indivisible." In 1877 he published "Gold, Silver and Paper."

Judge Hill was one of the founders of the Greenback and Union Labor parties, and was once a candidate for congress from Missouri on the Labor ticket. For some years past he devoted himself to literary work and the study of political economy. He possessed one of the largest and one of the best libraries in the country.

The Tobacco Chewing Habit.

There is one old time habit that used to be widely prevalent in the United States, especially in the west and south—the tobacco chewing habit—that has certainly declined in the present generation. The manufacture of chewing tobacco says that the trade in it has not grown with the growth of our population, but that in many states it is less than half as large as it used to be before the war. In the New England states it has become of very slight account. We think all old time New Yorkers will agree in saying that the chewing habit has fallen off greatly in this city and state, and that far fewer workmen are addicted to it in these days than formerly. The states in which it now has the greatest hold are Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Arkansas. It is an unwholesome habit, offensive to ladies, and ought to disappear.—New York Sun.

Go to Payton Martin's Livery Stable for Buggies, Hacks, and for accommodations for Picnic excursions. New rigs and good horses.

Look out for D. F. Reese & Bro.'s new ad. next week.

HOUSE FOR RENT—rooms and summer kitchen, in good order. Apply to B. Zwart.

FOR RENT—A 4-room house near the depot. Apply to Baldwin Bros.

Baled Hay for sale at J. A. Stafford's, Pilot Knob, Mo.

IN HUMAN FORM.

The Great Rock Chief of the Columbia River.

Towering high above the rushing waters of the Columbia river, on an island in the stream at the place called Hell Gate, 107 miles from Portland, Ore., and twenty-one miles from the Dalles, a great rock has reared its nature sculptured head for countless ages. Its front presents a most startling resemblance to a great, grim, human face, and when the white man first trod the wild region over which it keeps watch and ward, the Indians who followed the chase there did it awe struck reverence. They called it the



THE GREAT CHIEF OF THE COLUMBIA.

"Great Chief of the Columbia River," and attributed to it the most wonderful powers.

This great and curious rock, of which the accompanying cut is an excellent representation, undoubtedly served as a model for the gigantic "totems" which the Indians used to carve with wonderful patience from enormous tree trunks. Like many objects of worship among uncivilized races, however, the Great Chief of the Columbia River was not supposed to be altogether good in his intentions; on the other hand his influence seems to have been more generally regarded as baleful. Among the traditions which cling round the great rock was one to the effect that in a moment of anger at some terrible deed of a gigantic chief of days so far remote that no one knew their chronological location, the Great Spirit turned the refractory one into stone and condemned his petrified figure to forever breast the fury of the elements, an eternal monument to the folly of man's opposing his strength against that of the infinite.

UNCLE SAM IN AUSTRALIA.

The American Court at the Melbourne Exhibition.

In 1788 the great island of Australia—the largest island of the world—began to be opened up to civilization. One hundred years have rolled round, and Australia is one of England's greatest colonies. In Melbourne last summer the Australians celebrated the centennial of the settlement of the country, though unfortunately those who first landed were convicts, and Australia suffers to this day from this fact.

The event is celebrated by a world's fair, and in this fair the United States is represented. Its court is designated by stars



AMERICAN EXHIBITION IN MELBOURNE.

painted on the columns, and by the name in gold letters under the side lights. Here are Singer sewing machines, and Edison phonographs delight the curious British colonists who attended the exhibition. The machinery space is divided between America, Great Britain and Germany, which indicates how far ahead these countries are in the mechanical arts. The exhibition was remarkably successful. Australia has for some years past been making rapid strides, and doubtless when her people come to celebrate her next centennial she will be one of the great powers of the world.

The St. Louis Grant.

They do things on the American plan in St. Louis, and in their monument of Gen. Grant, recently unveiled, they have not forgotten to employ an American artist to do the modeling. Mr. Robert P. Brinhurst

was the man who secured the order, and he has made his design, the statue has been cast and has been placed in position. The St. Louisans after Gen. Grant's death organized an association for the purpose of erecting a monument which would be a suitable testimonial from them to the great commander. Gen. W. T. Sherman was made president, himself former citizen of St. Louis, and the work was begun. Some \$10,000 or \$12,000 were raised and this was found sufficient to place in position a very creditable monument. The pedestal is 10 feet high. It is surrounded by a stone coping, within which is a grass plot. On this figure is the statue, which is of bronze. It is 9 feet 6 inches high, and is said to be an excellent likeness of the general. "U. S. Grant" is engraved on the front, and underneath there is a bas relief, which is a war scene. The total height is 19 feet 6 inches.

It is claimed that a few drops of eau de cologne, ether and chloroform, in equal parts, poured on a handkerchief previously wetted with cold water, and placed on the seat of a neuralgic pain, gives instantaneous relief. It is also very efficacious for nervous headaches.

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Having just returned from Chicago, we have secured some Extra Good Values in

Men's Clothing, Boots and Shoes,

Dry Goods, &c., and would advise everybody to call and see our Low Prices before buying a dollar's worth anywhere else. We will save you money!

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